

REMARKS

Amendments have been made to independent claims 1 and 13 to put them in a more formal format and to also improve their readability and distinctiveness with respect to the Cole patent. It is Applicant's position that the amendments are proper and do not contain any new subject matter, and therefore should be entered into the application. Basis for such amendments can be found on page 5, lines 21-29 and in Figures 1 and 2. New claim 21 has also been added to the above-referenced patent application.

In the office action, claims 1-2, 5-14 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent Number 6,654,523 to Cole. In light of the amendments made to independent claims 1 and 13, the before mentioned rejections of claims 1-2, 5-14 and 16-20 is respectfully traversed.

That is, claim 1 has been amended to recite the step of "providing an integrated optical waveguide circuit component having an optical processing area, N input and output waveguide ports and at least one waveguide structure, the at least one waveguide structure going around the optical processing area." Claim 13, has been amended to recite the step of "providing an integrated optical waveguide circuit component having a first side, an optical processing area, N waveguide ports located on the first side, and at least one waveguide structure, the at least one waveguide structure having an input and an output

located on the first side, with the input positioned near an end of the first side, and the output positioned near an opposite end of the first side”.

As the Examiner is aware, a rejection under 35 USC § 102(e) requires that each and every feature of the claimed invention be provided in a single prior art reference. Cole describes an optical circuit having one or more alignment guides 150, 152, 154, and 156 (see for example the abstract and Fig. 2). However, Cole does not teach, or even suggest an integrated optical waveguide circuit component having at least one waveguide structure with the at least one waveguide structure going around the optical processing area (as recited in independent claim 1 as amended), or an integrated optical waveguide circuit component having a waveguide structure with the at least one waveguide structure having an input and output located on the first side, with the input positioned near an end of the first side, and the output positioned near an opposite end of the first side (as recited in independent claim 13, as amended).

Thus, Cole does not teach each and every feature recited in independent claims 1 and 13 and thus each of the claims that depend therefrom. In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-2, 5-14 and 16-20 in view of Cole.

Claims 3-4 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cole as applied to claim 1 above. However, as discussed

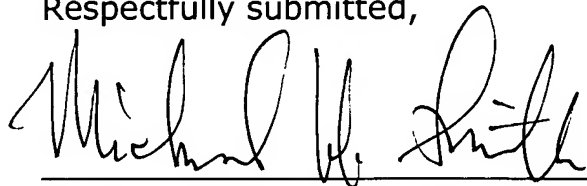
above, Cole does not teach the step of providing an integrated optical waveguide circuit component having an optical processing area, N input and output waveguide ports and at least one waveguide structure, the at least one waveguide structure going around the optical processing area as recited in claims 3-4, nor does Cole disclose the step of providing an integrated optical waveguide circuit component having a first side, an optical processing area, N waveguide ports located on the first side, and at least one waveguide structure, the at least one waveguide structure having an input and output located on the first side, with the input positioned near an end of the first side, and the output positioned near an opposite end of the first side as recited in claim 15. Therefore, Cole does not teach or suggest the inventive concepts recited in claims 3-4 and 15, as amended. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3-4 and 15 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed November 3, 2005. Applicants respectfully submit that each and every rejection of the claims has been overcome, and that the claims as currently presented are in a condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning this response or the remarks contained herein, Applicants' attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss such matters with the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael H. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

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